

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT National Democratic Party Personnel;
Notes on the Volkerrat

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1. It was expected in high SED circles that the National Democratic Party would be licensed for the Soviet Zone early in May. The same circles would like to see Count Heinrich von Einsiedel become leader of the new party; but as Einsiedel is a favorite of Colonel Tyulpanov and is occupied as an editor of the Tägliche Rundschau, there is doubt as to whether he can obtain a release for such a post. The SED believes that Einsiedel's war record and his relationship to Bismarck would exert a strong appeal in a campaign to extend the new party to other zones. **Comment:** Contrary to SED expectations, the National Democratic Party has not yet been licensed.)

2. Einsiedel is believed to be a convinced Communist; and the entire leadership of the party will consist of Communists, whatever the rank and file may turn out to be. In Thuringia the state leader may be the present chief of the Border Police, Parisius, a former member of the SS who became a fighter pilot, was taken prisoner, and went through a school operated by the National Komite Freies Deutschland.

3. The official view within the SED is that the foundation of the National Democratic Party does not constitute a rebuke for the SED, but is purely a tactical maneuver designed to split the votes of the CDU and the LDP and to save the SED from a clear-cut defeat at the polls. It is also intended to relieve the SED of the necessity of using nationalistic slogans which are out of harmony with Marxist dogma and have antagonized many old Communists, both in Germany and in eastern Europe.

The SED considers the most pressing task for the Volkerrat to be the drafting of a constitution for Germany. This is not to be merely a copy of a constitution already drawn up by the SED, but is to be worked out jointly with the other parties in the Volkerrat, ostensibly under the guidance of Dr. Eugen Schiffer. It is hoped that the entire German people will take part in a constitutional debate.

A third People's Congress is planned for the fall of 1948. Since the elections in the American Zone, the SED has lost hope for the success of the People's Initiative (Volksbegehren) in the west;

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Franz Duhlem stated privately that the prohibition by the occupying powers was perhaps a blessing in disguise, affording an excuse for the expected failure of the campaign and an opening for propaganda in the form of protests.

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